

2019 - 2020 combined GSL and Beavers AGM Report

I'm never very good at writing reports but here we go.

We have had another good year with all sections doing well and numbers steady at 51 (10 adults and 41 young people). Scouts have remained constant at 12, Cubs have risen from 14 to 21 and there was a reduction in Beaver numbers from 17 to 7. I think that this is probably a result of more accurate recording of numbers in the Beaver section and does not actually indicate a significant drop in actual numbers attending on a day to day basis.

The Group camp at Barnswood in July went well with everyone taking part in the walking, scambing, camp cooking and other activities. We have also had a good year with more help at the maintenance sessions and another good Cake sale at Christmas. We are still waiting to see if we will be able to get matched funding for some of the fund raising activities.

As well as keeping up with my GSL duties I have also been keeping Beavers running since our Beaver leader Gill and Assistant beaver leader James decided it was time to move on during the summer. I wish Gill and James all the best for the future in their new roles at Oulton group. We have done a lot of work to get all of the Beaver record keeping onto Online Scout manager and to get all of the badge work up to date, we have not managed to award any Chief Scout Bronze badges but several of the Beavers are making good progress in that direction. We do need to find a new leader who is prepared to take on the section full time assisted by Andy. Whilst I have been managing to juggle things for the last couple of terms I will not be able to continue longer term. A job to do before lockdown is eased I guess.

As I'm sure the Cub report will mention, their numbers are up year on year. Steve, Becca, Michael and Nathan have all done a brilliant job with lots of exciting activities being put on week after week. The numbers speak for themselves. We have fixed Cubs at a maximum of 24 young people until such time as additional leaders can be found in order to maintain sensible ratios of adults to young people.

Scouts have also had a good year with Marj at the helm, ably assisted by Nigel and Nat. They continue to run a Youth lead program allowing the young people to, with guidance, pick the program.

We have also been very lucky to have received a £2000 grant from the parish council to be used to re-fit heaters and electrical wiring in the hut. This should make the hut a much nicer place to be during the cold winter months This work is yet to be completed but is well underway.

Lastly I would like to take this opportunity to thank all of the leaders and executive committee members who have helped the group this year. Particularly Judy Shermer who stood down as group treasurer at the end of last year and to Kim Moore who stood down from her role as Secretary during the last year.

You are all awesome and I thank you on behalf of the scout association, Stone district, Barlaston group, myself and most importantly on behalf of the young people who have enjoyed scouting in Barlaston this, and every year.

Gareth Westwood, Group Scout Leader.